

Executive Constantine calls for review of proposal to resume mining near Black Diamond

King County Executive Dow Constantine comments on a proposal now under review by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement - an office of the Department of the Interior - for resumption of coal mining at an existing mine site near Black Diamond.

"The decision to authorize mining or call for reclamation of this site rests with the federal government, and I have called on regulators to complete a more detailed assessment of impacts before making that decision.

In the nearly 30 years since the original environmental review for this site was completed, population and traffic around the site have increased considerably, as has our understanding of environmental impacts.

Findings in the federal Environmental Assessment that 'local climate has not changed perceptively since 1986' stand in stark contrast to the just-released [National Climate Assessment](#), which affirms that climate impacts are here now. Warming temperatures, increasing ocean acidity, declining glacial area and spring snowpack, and changing streamflows have already been [documented in our region](#).

I have directed our King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review to review impacts to wetlands, streams, and stormwater and evaluate whether King County may apply additional or revised permit conditions to mitigate environmental impacts."

King County has submitted additional technical comments to the federal government related to the proposed resumption of coal mining at the John Henry No. 1 Mine near Black Diamond. They are available online at www.kingcounty.gov/climate